

## **INTRODUCTION**

- A. THE FORGOTTEN PROPHET** (e.g., 2Chr.20:14, etc.)
- B. QUESTION & ANSWER** (Mt.11:1f&7f; see Jn.1:29f; see *How to Deal with Doubt*, 10/17/10; sermonaudio.com)

## **I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST** (Mt.11:7-19 (21:31f); Lk.7:24-35 (16:16))

- A. AN UNLIKELY PERSON IN AN UNLIKELY PLACE** (Mt.11:7,8; Lk.7:24,25; see Mt.3:4)
- B. MORE THAN A PROPHET** (Mt.11:9,10; Lk.7:26,27 / Ex.23:20; Mal.3:1f(4:5); Is.40:3 / Mt.3:2,3; Hb.10:4)
- C. NO ONE GREATER IN OFFICE** (Mt.11:11a,14(Mal.4:5; Lk.1:17); Lk.7:28a; see Jn.1:29-34)
- D. ANY ONE GREATER IN NEW COVENANT** (Mt.11:11b,13; Lk.7:28b,16 /Mt3:2; Acts1:22; Gl.3:24f; Dt3:27)
- E. A FORCEFUL KINGDOM** (Mt.11:12; Lk.16:16; see 1Th.1:5f,9; Acts 9:3f; Phil.3:1f)
- F. THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN JOHN** (Lk.7:29,30(27); Mt.21:31f(11:10); see Lk.1:17(Mt.11:14); see Jn.1:31-34)
- G. HARD HEARTS: DEMON & DEVIL** (Mt.11:15f; Lk.7:31f / Mk.5:2f & Mk.2:18f; Dt.21:20 / Eph6:4; Mt13:15)
- H. TREE KNOWN BY FRUIT: MEANS & ENDS** (Mt.11:19b(5) & Lk.7:35(29); see Mt.3:10; 7:17f)

## **II. LESSONS FOR FAITH FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- A. ACCEPT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU** (Lk.7:29,30; 26f; Mt.11:9-15; see 2Tm.3:16,17; Eph.2:20)
- B. HEAR JOHN THE BAPTIST & BELIEVE JESUS THE CHRIST** (Mt.11:7f; Lk.7:24f; Mal.3:1f; 4:5; Jn.1:29f; Lk.3:22; see Rom.10:17)
- C. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD & THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD** (Jn.1:29f; 3:16f; see Mt.11:7f; Lk.7:24; see Rom.5:10; 1Jn.4:14)
- D. NOT KNOW JACK = NOT KNOW JESUS** (Lk.7:30; see 20:4f)
- E. KNOWING JACK IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH** (Mt.11:14,15; 13:16; see Eph.2:5-10)
- F. IT'S NOT YOU** (Mt.11:16f; Lk.7:31f; see Lk.10:16; 1Th.4:8)

## **III. LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- A. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE PROPHETS** (Mt.11:9-14; Lk.7:26-30; 16:16; see 1Tm.4:16; 2Tm.3:14f; Heb.2:1f; 2Pt.1:19)
- B. BE FORCEFUL! SEIZE THE KINGDOM WITH PASSION!** (Mt.11:12; Lk.16:16; see Mt.5:6; 7:7; Phil.3:12; 1Jn.4:19; 1Tm.6:12,19)
- C. DON'T BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE** (Mt.11:16f; Lk.7:31f; see Lk.3:14; Phil.4:11; 1Tm.6:8)
- D. DO YOUR THING: GOD'S GIFTS & CALLING TO YOU** (Mt.11:16f; Lk.7:31f /Eph4:12-16; 1Co12:4f,25)
- E. ACCEPT THOSE DIFFERENT FROM YOU WITHOUT CONDEMNING THEM** (Mt.11:16f; Lk.7:31f; see Acts 17:11; 1Cor.12:4f; Mt.9:14f; Rom.14:1f)
- F. COMMEND THOSE WHO EXCEL YOU & WHOM YOU EXCEL** (Jn.3:26f; Mt.11:7f)